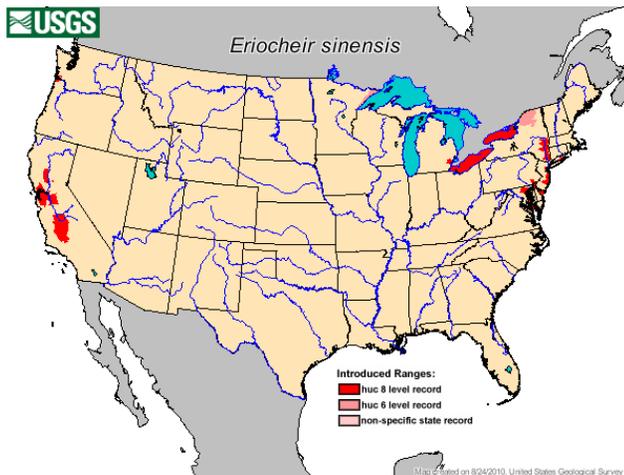


Chinese Mitten Crab

Eriocheir sinensis

Identification Most easily identified by dense patches of hair on white-tipped claws

Why is it a Problem? Competes with local species for food; eats eggs of native fish; builds burrows that accelerate erosion



Range/Habitat Last seen off Southern tip of Kent Island; recently spotted at mouth of Patapsco River at Chesapeake Beach; young crabs spend 2-5 years in freshwater tributaries and can extend over 50 miles inland; mature crabs migrate downstream to mate and spawn in salt water estuaries

Similar Species Not easily confused with other species.

Legal Status Prohibited from import, transport, sale, purchase and possession in Maryland.

Method of Introduction Hitchhiked into Maryland via ballast water or via live food industry.

Control and Prevention Do not release live Chinese mitten crabs into the environment.

Want to know more? Check out www.dnr.maryland.gov for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.